

REMARKS

This is a response to the Office Action mailed December 17, 2003, with shortened statutory response period ending on January 17, 2004, extended one month by Petition filed herewith. Therefore, this response is timely filed. Payment for the extension accompanies this Response, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees to Deposit Account number 02-1818. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the above Amendments and Remarks below.

Election/Restriction:

Claims 1-55 are pending in this Application. The Examiner has entered an Election/Restriction requirement requiring Applicants to select for prosecution one of three groups of claims.

- I. Claims 1-29 and 53-55, drawn to a flexible container, classified in class 383, subclass 42.
- II. Claims 30-49, drawn to a multiple layer film, classified in class 428.
- III. Claims 50-52, drawn to a method of filling a container, classified in class 53, subclass 469.

Applicants hereby elect Group I without traverse, namely claims 1-29 and 53-55.

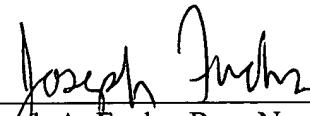
The Examiner also indicated that Inventions I and II, and I and II are related as combination and subcombination. Applicant respectfully requests that the related claims be re-added upon a finding of Allowability of the claims of Group I. Until that time the claims of Groups II and III are withdrawn.

Should the claims of Groups II and III not be re-added into the present application, Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected claims.

Applicants invite the Examiner to call Applicants' Representative to discuss any issues with this application.

Respectfully submitted,
BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

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BY 
Joseph A. Fuchs, Reg. No. 34,604
Attorneys for Applicant
P.O. Box 1135
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1135
Phone: (312) 807-4335